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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 001273
NOFORN
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INR/I

EO 12958 DECL: 05/19/2019
TAGS PREL, PGOV, ENRG, EPET, IT, RS
SUBJECT: ITALIAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS (C-RE8-02675)

REF: A. 08 STATE 134386
[1](#)B. MOSCOW 572

Classified By: DCM Eric Rubin for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

Summary

[1](#)1. (S/NF) Economic ties, especially long-term gas contracts, are a pillar of Russia-Italy relations and affect Italy's policies toward Russia.

Economics affects politics

[1](#)2. (C) Russia obtains significant economic benefits from Italy, gaining access to its equipment and technology, its stable market for gas and

[1](#)3. (C) However, the economic interdependency does not come without other costs. Italian Embassy First Secretary Lorenzo Fanara told us that th

Deep ties on gas

[1](#)4. (C) The crown jewels of Italy's business interests with Russia are ENI's gas contracts with Gazprom through 2035 and its 50-50 partnership